

Message Text

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53

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /043 W
----- 109556

P 161600Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2427

UNCLAS TUNIS 2715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TS

SUBJ: PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 91571

1. HEAD OF CEREALS OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED THAT OFFICE DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND CONCLUDE ANY WHEAT SALES CONTRACTS ON BASIS ON PURCHASE OFFERS RECEIVED APRIL 13 WHICH WERE SOLICITED IN PART TOTEST INTERNATIONAL HARD WHEAT MARKET. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT DEFINITE DECISION NOT YET REACHED REGARDING POSSIBLE EXPORT OF HARD WHEAT SURPLUS TO TUNISIAN NEEDS. HE AND CHEF DE CABINET, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, HAVE BOTH STRESSED IMPORTANCE GOT ATTACHES TO CONCLUDING PROPOSED PL 480 SALE AND FACT THAT MEETING SOFT WHEAT UMR PRESENTS NO PROBLEMS SINCE 200,000-250,000 TONS OF SOFT WHEAT WILL STILL BE IMPORTED IN CORSE OF YEAR. THEY ALSO NOTED DIFFICULT STORAGE AND HANDLING PROBLEM THAT MAY BE FACED BECAUSE OF PROBABLE RECORD CEREALS HARVEST LATER IN YEAR.

2. IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE SIGNING DATE FOR TITLE I AGREEMENT SINCE OFFICIAL TUNISIAN REACTION TO DRAFT AGREEMENT NOT YET RECEIVED. PROPOSED AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL TUNISIAN MINISTRIES, AND EMBASSY HAS ASSURED THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF KEY PROVISIONS, INCLUDING NEED FOR URGENCY IF JUNE 30 DELIVERY DATE TO BE MET. SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL
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RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS RETURNING APRIL 18 AND

CONVENING MEETING OF ALL TUNISIAN AGENCIES CONCERNED TO
CONSIDER MATTER. WILL ADVISE OF RESULTS.
KING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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